

To: Anthony Cox[Anthony.Cox@azdema.gov]; Leslee Bechtel[Leslee.Bechteler@azdema.gov]; Wendy Smith-Reeve[Wendy.Smith-Reeve@azdema.gov]; beager@co.apache.az.us[beager@co.apache.az.us]; Robert Rowley[rrowley@coconino.az.gov]; Duschell, Heather[Heather.Duschell@fema.dhs.gov]; Mary Springer[Mary.Springer@navajocountyaz.gov]
Cc: Ian Bingham[idb@azdeq.gov]; malone.mike@azdeq.gov[malone.mike@azdeq.gov]; Floyd, Megan[Megan.Floyd@fema.dhs.gov]; kerry.reeve@va.gov[kerry.reeve@va.gov]
From: Joseph Urrea
Sent: Mon 8/10/2015 4:27:01 PM
Subject: Updated Situational Awareness - Colorado Mine Waste Water Spill

This morning I spoke with both the Navajo Nation Emergency Management and the EPA Region IX On Scene Coordinator regarding the recent mine waste water spill that occurred on Wednesday. Current status follows:

- The Environmental Protection Agency, which had triggered the spill while using heavy machinery to investigate pollutants at the Gold King Mine, has increased its estimates on how much mine waste leaked into the Animas River from 1 million to 3 million gallons. (<http://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/colorado-mine-spill-toxic-wastewater-leak-far-exceeds-first-estimates-n407091>).

- Incident Command Post (ICP) at Window Rock that the Navajo Nation opened to monitor the situation on Friday is still operational.

- The EPA Region IX On Scene Coordinator reports that due to the muddy conditions of the San Juan they are using aerial surveillance to identify the start of the spill.

- At this time Navajo Nation Emergency Management reports that the river is moving faster than it was in Colorado which may be the result of the increase in water flow from the Navajo Dam to increase flow speed.

- All three FEMA regions are doing ongoing sampling to get results to the labs. There is a 48 hour turnaround for these results so the hope is that we will begin to hear some preliminary results from the EPA regarding testing in New Mexico tomorrow. As soon as they are received they will be shared with everyone.

- Today the Navajo Nation will be holding public meetings in the Aneth Chapter, Monument Valley and at the Kayenta Chapters to speak with members about the spill.

- The EPA stated that intakes are being shutdown along the rivers that are being impacted. In addition to this the Navajo Nation plans to issue a "No Use Water Notice" as the spill makes its way through the San Juan River across the nation.

- Ongoing forward thinking of potential issues includes water shortages for both

people and livestock as well as testing of wells in the impacted areas; EPA shared that some private wells in Colorado were reporting contamination.

As more information becomes available more issues may surface. If anyone has any questions please let me know - I will share any additional information as I receive it.

Joe

Joseph M. Urrea

Tribal Liaison

State of Arizona

Department of Emergency and Military Affairs

Division of Emergency Management